

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08121 131844Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 8121

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, IZ, SO
SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF: STATE 107350

1. DURING TELECON WITH FAHMY TODAY ON SECURE PHONE, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN BACKGROUND OF BENNETT/JAVITS EXCHANGE CITING LIBYA, IRAQ, SOMALIA AND PDRY WITH RESPECT TO TERRORISM. I EMPHASIZED THAT JAVITS' MAIN CONCERN HAD TO DO WITH LIBYA, BUT DEPT ALSO FELT OBLIGED TO RESPOND AS FACTUALLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE SENATOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN HIS LETTER. FAHMY SHOULD KNOW THAT NEITHER IRAQ NOR SOMALIA HAD BEEN DESCRIBED IN ANY WAY AS PLACING THEM ON A "BLACK LIST." WE ALSO REGRET TIMING OF PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE, BUT IT WAS A MATTER OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL.

2. I ASSURED FAHMY THAT WE CONTINUE TO WANT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AND SOMALIA. IN CASE OF IRAQ, WE WOULD HOPE GOI MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT POLICIES LESS HARMFUL TO ME PEACE EFFORTS AND ALSO STOP ITS SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. WE APPRECIATE GOE'S HELP IN URGING SADDAM HUSSEIN TO BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08121 131844Z

RESPONSIVE TO OUR DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS AND REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE OR EMBARRASSMENT THAT PUBLICA-
TION OF JAVITS' LETTER MAY HAVE CAUSED TO GOE.

3. THE SECRETARY HAD APPRECIATED FAHMY'S SUGGESTIONS ON HANDLING IRAQ, BUT REGRETS THAT HIS TIGHT SCHEDULE MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO VISIT BAGHDAD. FAHMY SHOULD

KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT IN REQUESTING IRAQI APPROVAL FOR HABIB VISIT, WE INDICATED TO THEM THAT HE WILL BE CARRYING A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ABOUT OUR INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAHMY'S SUGGESTION, USINT BAGHDAD IS ALSO BEING INSTRUCTED CLARIFY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH JAVITS' LETTER WAS MADE PUBLIC. HOPEFULLY, ALL THIS WILL HELP.

4. FAHMY AGAIN DEPLORED TIMING OF JAVITS' LETTER. HE APPLAUDED FACT THAT IRAQIS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HABIB WILL BE CARRYING A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT HELP ASSUAGE IRAQI IRE. ON THE SOMALIS, HE URGED THAT WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS WITH THEM DESPITE THEIR ANNOYANCE ABOUT THE JAVITS LETTER. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE ARE DOING SO WITH BOTH COUNTRIES.

5. FAHMY THEN NOTED GOE HAS HEARD THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S HEALTH IS BAD AND ASKED IF WE HAVE ANY CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT IT. I SAID I DID NOT, BUT WOULD INQUIRE. PLEASE ADVISE IF WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON SADDAM HUSSEIN'S HEALTH WHICH MIGHT BE CONVEYED TO FAHMY. EILTS

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NNN

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